

ATTACHMENT A.

**Funds for State Formula – Allocated and Selected Student Aid
Programs**

**U.S. Department of Education
California**

<http://www.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/08stbystate.pdf>

Funds for State Formula-Allocated and Selected Student Aid Programs
U.S. Department of Education Funding
California

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	2001 Actual	2002 Actual	2003 Actual	2004 Actual	2005 Actual	2006 Actual	2007 Estimate	2008 Estimate	Change Fiscal Year 2007 to 2008 Amount	Percent	2001 to 2008 % Change
ESEA Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	1,185,906,438	1,448,833,975	1,649,697,459	1,765,537,626	1,776,542,957	1,723,482,942	1,629,665,898	1,767,657,707	137,991,809	8.5%	49.1%
School Improvement Grants	0	0	0	0	0	0	16,561,217	66,163,626	49,602,409	299.5%	---
Reading First State Grants	0	137,397,187	142,801,723	146,145,963	152,898,960	144,886,608	136,987,926	135,702,322	-1,285,604	-0.9%	---
Even Start	30,484,555	31,210,336	31,342,083	31,451,159	27,702,424	11,909,704	9,377,969	0	-9,377,969	-100.0%	-100.0%
State Agency Program--Migrant	120,926,758	129,903,308	130,703,626	130,148,295	128,385,808	125,572,327	130,750,549	128,587,583	-2,162,966	-1.7%	6.3%
State Agency Program--Neglected and Delinquent	4,145,673	3,888,998	3,350,153	3,249,282	2,867,245	2,835,780	2,812,194	2,812,194	0	0.0%	-32.2%
Comprehensive School Reform (Title I)	26,717,068	30,996,645	31,096,447	31,344,563	27,680,353	0	0	0	0	---	-100.0%
Capital Expenses for Private School Children	1,053,529	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A
Promise Scholarships	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	31,679,018	31,679,018	---	---
Subtotal, Education for the Disadvantaged	1,369,234,021	1,782,230,449	1,988,991,491	2,107,876,888	2,116,077,747	2,008,687,361	1,926,155,753	2,132,602,450	206,446,697	10.7%	55.8%
Impact Aid Basic Support Payments	53,309,293	64,042,753	67,097,816	61,579,096	63,249,138	56,706,167	66,010,054	68,340,981	2,330,927	3.5%	28.2%
Impact Aid Payments for Children with Disabilities	4,224,942	4,206,625	4,216,837	3,860,401	3,536,937	3,428,155	3,982,552	3,982,525	-27	0.0%	-5.7%
Impact Aid Construction	282,115	1,171,468	1,153,830	1,008,648	1,106,386	355,506	422,219	0	-422,219	-100.0%	-100.0%
Subtotal, Impact Aid	57,816,350	69,420,846	72,468,483	66,448,145	67,892,461	60,489,828	70,414,825	72,323,506	1,908,681	2.7%	25.1%
Improving Teacher Quality State Grants	0	332,170,724	341,185,718	341,331,785	339,448,010	335,450,834	332,042,670	319,155,675	-12,886,995	-3.9%	---
Mathematics and Science Partnerships	0	0	13,901,945	20,616,756	24,513,072	25,055,987	23,634,838	23,630,166	-4,672	0.0%	---
Educational Technology State Grants	55,910,034	85,123,372	89,959,919	93,318,376	65,730,620	34,985,639	32,629,206	0	-32,629,206	-100.0%	-100.0%
21st Century Community Learning Centers	0	41,494,874	76,288,342	136,981,161	137,174,714	131,320,892	127,685,271	119,526,574	-8,158,697	-6.4%	---
State Grants for Innovative Programs	45,930,964	46,714,168	46,410,526	36,429,854	24,693,735	12,321,975	12,420,932	0	-12,420,932	-100.0%	-100.0%
State Assessments	0	29,379,201	30,621,018	32,267,812	33,952,540	33,952,540	34,215,508	34,215,508	0	0.0%	---
Rural and Low-income Schools Program	0	2,719,404	2,573,030	1,425,730	1,718,545	1,177,127	1,177,127	1,176,655	-472	0.0%	---
Small, Rural School Achievement Program	0	4,269,841	7,489,667	5,195,246	5,088,044	5,552,549	5,552,549	5,550,387	-2,162	0.0%	---
Indian Education--Grants to Local Educational Agencies	6,584,676	6,551,544	6,706,324	6,460,486	6,348,742	6,359,784	6,359,784	6,359,780	-4	0.0%	-3.4%
Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities State Grants	52,938,133	61,558,718	60,756,063	53,257,421	52,742,911	41,539,958	41,539,958	12,832,908	-28,707,050	-69.1%	-75.8%
Language Acquisition State Grants	0	117,280,776	140,308,451	161,549,115	149,565,827	166,955,253	169,057,668	169,521,066	463,398	0.3%	---
Fund for the Improvement of Education--Comprehensive School Reform	6,043,539	9,219,549	9,159,623	9,233,404	0	0	0	0	0	---	-100.0%
State Grants for Community Service for Expelled or Suspended Students	0	6,724,307	6,652,068	0	0	0	0	0	0	---	---
Eisenhower Professional Development State Grants	53,702,377	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Class Size Reduction	174,941,971	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Immigrant Education	32,069,254	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Subtotal, All of the Above Programs, which constitute the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001	1,855,171,319	2,594,857,773	2,893,472,668	3,072,392,179	3,024,946,968	2,863,849,727	2,782,886,089	2,896,894,675	114,008,586	4.1%	56.2%
Education for Homeless Children and Youth	4,851,972	7,046,528	7,713,390	8,500,225	8,606,995	8,288,438	7,682,978	7,764,672	81,694	1.1%	60.0%
School Renovation Grants	138,523,710	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Special Education--Grants to States	650,017,799	781,662,507	933,124,077	1,072,636,899	1,132,572,659	1,130,940,237	1,150,175,848	1,117,655,486	-32,520,362	-2.8%	71.9%
Special Education--Preschool Grants	39,848,701	39,848,701	39,529,222	39,550,707	39,160,720	38,677,085	38,677,082	38,677,082	0	0.0%	-2.9%
Grants for Infants and Families	46,979,082	49,954,044	52,016,926	54,397,335	53,695,159	54,072,123	54,247,851	52,590,456	-1,657,395	-3.1%	11.9%
Subtotal, Special Education	736,845,582	871,465,252	1,024,670,225	1,166,584,941	1,225,428,538	1,223,689,445	1,243,100,781	1,208,923,024	-34,177,757	-2.7%	64.1%
Career and Technical Education State Grants	120,745,507	129,790,082	127,491,358	128,464,270	128,962,835	128,752,910	129,514,828	63,230,535	-66,284,293	-51.2%	-47.6%
Tech-Prep Education State Grants	11,895,013	12,177,613	11,688,655	11,563,216	11,355,769	11,260,242	11,260,243	0	-11,260,243	-100.0%	-100.0%
Subtotal, Vocational and Adult Education	132,640,520	141,967,695	139,180,013	140,027,486	140,318,604	140,013,152	140,775,071	63,230,535	-77,544,536	-55.1%	-52.3%
Subtotal, All Elementary/Secondary Level Programs	2,868,033,103	3,615,337,248	4,065,036,296	4,387,504,831	4,399,301,105	4,235,840,762	4,174,444,919	4,176,812,906	2,367,987	0.1%	45.6%

Funds for State Formula-Allocated and Selected Student Aid Programs
U.S. Department of Education Funding
California

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	2001 Actual	2002 Actual	2003 Actual	2004 Actual	2005 Actual	2006 Actual	2007 Estimate	2008 Estimate	Change Fiscal Year 2007 to 2008 Amount	Percent	2001 to 2008 % Change
Federal Pell Grants	1,200,100,000	1,318,200,000	1,412,300,000	1,480,100,000	1,437,000,000	1,459,000,000	1,576,300,000	1,708,600,000	132,300,000	8.4%	42.4%
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants	72,922,843	77,970,591	80,274,407	81,054,630	80,673,260	79,297,539	79,297,538	0	-79,297,538	-100.0%	-100.0%
Federal Work-Study	111,356,320	113,597,618	111,208,497	108,384,102	106,438,596	101,256,834	101,256,834	101,271,043	14,209	0.0%	-9.1%
Federal Perkins Loans--Capital Contributions	11,298,174	9,353,065	9,144,438	9,768,901	0	0	0	0	0	---	-100.0%
Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership	8,445,098	10,298,903	10,220,874	12,582,059	12,286,525	10,712,192	10,712,192	0	-10,712,192	-100.0%	-100.0%
Byrd Honors Scholarships	4,993,500	5,101,500	5,071,500	5,166,000	5,139,000	5,127,000	5,241,000	0	-5,241,000	-100.0%	-100.0%
Subtotal, All Postsecondary Education Programs	1,409,115,935	1,534,521,677	1,628,219,716	1,697,055,692	1,641,537,381	1,655,393,565	1,772,807,564	1,809,871,043	37,063,479	2.1%	28.4%
Vocational Rehabilitation State Grants	234,214,418	243,137,267	251,750,039	247,893,144	248,655,290	260,883,318	271,452,802	271,762,257	309,455	0.1%	16.0%
Client Assistance State Grants	1,192,563	1,207,727	1,232,680	1,231,546	1,224,186	1,214,097	1,210,950	1,209,690	-1,260	-0.1%	1.4%
Protection and Advocacy of Individual Rights	1,398,943	1,514,547	1,693,359	1,691,911	1,681,759	1,668,092	1,663,983	1,662,417	-1,566	-0.1%	18.8%
Supported Employment State Grants	4,161,014	4,125,408	4,121,066	4,123,626	4,120,381	3,103,391	3,070,439	0	-3,070,439	-100.0%	-100.0%
Independent Living State Grants	1,986,795	1,980,087	1,978,260	1,975,296	2,050,192	2,032,616	2,026,987	2,022,670	-4,317	-0.2%	1.8%
Services for Older Blind Individuals	1,713,855	2,290,298	2,622,009	3,086,562	3,367,434	3,260,338	3,258,597	3,258,628	31	0.0%	90.1%
Assistive Technology State Grant Program	0	0	0	0	657,838	730,315	989,070	988,787	-283	0.0%	---
Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology	50,000	50,000	455,130	435,629	421,079	415,188	414,113	0	-414,113	-100.0%	-100.0%
Adult Basic and Literacy Education State Grants	52,665,928	56,712,395	63,213,469	64,223,365	63,714,874	63,063,484	63,063,458	63,076,042	12,584	0.0%	19.8%
English Literacy and Civics Education State Grants	20,821,914	19,608,981	18,324,637	18,051,837	17,667,652	17,541,572	16,684,912	16,684,868	-44	0.0%	-19.9%
State Grants for Incarcerated Youth Offenders	1,810,924	1,752,413	1,940,308	2,178,727	2,408,209	2,677,875	2,677,875	0	-2,677,875	-100.0%	-100.0%
Subtotal, All Other	320,016,354	332,379,123	347,330,957	344,891,643	345,968,894	356,590,286	366,513,186	360,665,359	-5,847,827	-1.6%	12.7%
Total	4,597,165,392	5,482,238,048	6,040,586,969	6,429,452,166	6,386,807,380	6,247,824,613	6,313,765,669	6,347,349,308	33,583,639	0.5%	38.1%
New Student Loan Volume:											
Federal Direct Student Loans	963,316,745	1,025,071,217	1,143,192,002	1,212,778,592	1,233,018,577	1,224,992,206	1,313,839,767	1,454,308,715	140,468,948	10.7%	51.0%
Federal Family Education Loans	2,334,991,696	2,571,612,543	2,739,726,228	3,190,422,446	3,471,557,178	3,905,974,017	4,326,695,448	4,776,097,476	449,402,028	10.4%	104.5%
Total, New Student Loan Volume	3,298,308,441	3,596,683,760	3,882,918,230	4,403,201,038	4,704,575,755	5,130,966,223	5,640,535,215	6,230,406,191	589,870,976	10.5%	88.9%
Grand Total	7,895,473,833	9,078,921,808	9,923,505,199	10,832,653,204	11,091,383,135	11,378,790,836	11,954,300,884	12,577,755,499	623,454,615	5.2%	59.3%

NOTES:

N/A = Not applicable. Program was consolidated or terminated under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

NOTE: State allocations for fiscal years 2007 and 2008 are preliminary estimates based on currently available data. Allocations based on new data may result in significant changes from these preliminary estimates.

ATTACHMENT B.
First Interim Status Report, 2006-07

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/fi/ir/first0607.asp>

First Interim Status, Fiscal Year 2006-07

List of Negative and Qualified Certifications School Districts and County Offices of Education 2006-07 First Interim Report

Negative Certification

A negative certification is assigned to a school district or county office of education when it is determined that, based upon current projections, the school district or county office of education will not meet its financial obligations for fiscal year 2006-07 or 2007-08.

County	District	Total Budget (\$)
Butte	Biggs Unified	6.4 million
Fresno	Parlier Unified	27.8 million
Solano	Vallejo City Unified	142.8 million

Qualified Certification

A qualified certification is assigned to a school district or county office of education when it is determined that, based upon current projections, the school district or county office of education may not meet its financial obligations for fiscal year 2006-07, 2007-08, or 2008-09.

County	District	Total Budget (\$)
Alameda	Oakland Unified	487.5 million
Amador	Amador County Office	8.7 million
Amador	Amador County Unified	31.5 million
El Dorado	Gold Oak Union Elementary	5.2 million
Fresno	Golden Plains Unified	19.4 million
Fresno	West Fresno Elementary	9.1 million
Humboldt	Eureka Unified	39.6 million
Lassen	Fort Sage Unified	2.7 million
Lassen	Johnstonville Elementary	1.7 million
Los Angeles	Eastside Union Elementary	26.7 million
Mendocino	Ukiah Unified	51.2 million
Nevada	Ready Springs Union Elementary	2.6 million
Nevada	Twin Ridges Elementary	5.7 million
Plumas	Plumas Unified	29.0 million
Sacramento	Del Paso Heights Elementary	19.8 million
San Mateo	San Mateo Union High	91.7 million
Siskiyou	Junction Elementary	0.4 million
Sonoma	Healdsburg Unified	18.6 million
Tuolumne	Twain Harte-Long Barn Union Elementary	3.9 million

ATTACHMENT C.

State Emergency Loans 1991-2005 (As of October 31, 2005)

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/fi/ir/loanlist.asp>

STATE EMERGENCY LOANS
1991 to 2005
As of October 31, 2005

Note: This page may need to be printed in landscape view.

District	State Administrator/State Trustee	Amount of State Loan	Legal Authority	Date of Issue	Payoff Date	Interest Rate	Annual Loan Payment and Month Due	Outstanding Balance
Vallejo Unified	Administrator 6/22/04 - Present	\$50,000,000 (\$60,000,000 authorized)	Senate Bill 1190, Chapter 53, Statutes of 2004	6/23/04	6/24/24	1.500%	\$2,912,287 due in June 2005-2024	\$47,837,713
Oakland Unified	Administrator 6/16/03 - Present	\$65,000,000 (\$100,000,000 authorized)	Senate Bill 39, Chapter 14, Statutes of 2003	6/04/03	6/05/23	1.778%	\$3,890,534 due in June 2004-2023	\$59,481,707
West Fresno Elementary	Administrator 3/19/03 - Present	\$1,300,000 (\$2,000,000 authorized)	Assembly Bill 38, Chapter 1, Statutes of 2003	12/29/03	12/30/13	1.930%	\$144,195 due in December 2004-2013	\$1,180,895
Emery Unified	Administrator 8/07/01 - 6/30/04 Trustee 7/01/04 - Present	\$1,300,000 (\$2,300,000 authorized)	Assembly Bill 96, Chapter 135, Statutes of 2001	9/21/01	9/30/21	4.190%	\$97,273 due in September 2002-2021	\$1,117,724
Compton Unified	Administrators 7/93 - 12/10/01 Trustee 12/11/01 - 6/02/03	\$3,500,000 7,000,000 <u>9,451,259</u> \$19,951,259	Assembly Bills 657 and 1708, Chapters 78 and 924, Statutes of 1993	7/19/93 10/14/93 6/29/94	6/30/01	4.400% 4.313% 4.387%	none	-0-
Coachella Valley Unified	Administrators 5/26/92 - 9/30/96 Trustee 10/01/96 - 12/20/01	\$5,130,708 <u>2,169,292</u> \$7,300,000	Senate Bill 1278, Chapter 59, Statutes of 1992	6/16/92 1/26/93	12/20/01	5.338% 4.493%	none	-0-
Richmond/ West Contra Costa Unified	Pre-AB 1200 Trustee 7/01/90 - 5/01/91 Administrator 5/02/91 - 5/03/92 Trustee 5/04/92 - Present	\$ 2,000,000 7,525,000 <u>19,000,000</u> \$28,525,000	Assembly Bill 1202, Chapter 171, Statutes of 1990 Superior Court Order	8/01/90 1/01/91 7/01/91	2/01/18	1.532%	\$1,421,602 due in February 2006- 2018	\$16,641,911

Questions: Management Assistance Unit | 916-327-0538

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ATTACHMENT D.

Department of Education Proposed Technical Changes to Budget Item 6110-136-0890

6110-136-0890--For local assistance,
Department of Education, payable from
the Federal Trust Fund..... 1,710,241,000
\$1,660,392,000

Schedule:

(1) 10.30.060-Title I- 1,652,483,00
ESEA..... 0
\$1,640,978,735

(2) 10.30.065-McKinney-
Vento Homeless
Children Education.. 7,909,000
(3) 10.30.XXX - Even Start 11,504,265

Program

~~(3) 10.30.080 Title I-~~
~~School Improvement.. 49,849,000~~

~~Provisions:~~

~~1. In administering the~~
~~accountability system required~~
~~by this item, the Department of~~
~~Education shall align the forms,~~
~~processes, and procedures~~
~~required of local educational~~
~~agencies in a manner that they~~
~~may be utilized for the purposes~~
~~of implementing the Public~~
~~Schools Accountability Act, as~~
~~established by Chapter 6.1~~
~~(commencing with Section 52050)~~
~~of Part 28 of the Education~~
~~Code, so that duplication of~~
~~effort is minimized at the local~~
~~level.~~

~~2. Of the funds appropriated in~~
~~Schedule (3), \$10,000,000 shall~~
~~be available for use by the~~
~~Department of Education for the~~
~~purposes of the Statewide System~~
~~of School Support established by~~
~~Article 4.2 (commencing with~~
~~Section 52059) of Chapter 6.1 of~~
~~Part 28 of the Education~~
~~Code.~~

~~3. Of the funds appropriated in~~
~~Schedule (3), up to \$1,600,000~~

~~shall be made available to
support school assistance and
intervention teams that enter
into a contract with a school
pursuant to subdivision (a) of
Section 52055.51 of the
Education Code. These funds
shall be allocated in the amount
of \$75,000 for each school
assistance and intervention team
assigned to an elementary or
middle school, and \$100,000 for
each team assigned to a high
school. The Department of
Education and Department of
Finance may approve applications
with justification for a total
funding level of \$125,000.~~

~~4. Of the funds appropriated in
Schedule (3), up to
\$22,069,000 shall be made
available to provide \$150 per
pupil for each pupil in a school
that is managed in accordance
with paragraph (3) of
subdivision (b) of Section
52055.5 of the Education Code or
that contracts with a school
assistance and intervention team
pursuant to subdivision (a) of
Section 52055.51 of the
Education Code.~~

~~5. Of the funds appropriated in
Schedule (3), \$16,180,000 shall
be available pursuant to Article
3.1 (commencing with Section
52055.57) of Chapter 6.1 of Part
28 of the Education Code, for
Title I district accountability.~~

~~6. The Department of Education may
expend funds from Schedule (3)
in amounts greater or less than
designated in Provisions 2,
3, 4, and 5 to meet the
requirements of all programs.
Expenditures greater than
designated in the provisions
shall not be valid without prior
approval by the Department of
Finance.~~

6110-XXX-0890--For local assistance,
Department of Education, payable from
the Federal Trust Fund..... 49,849,000
Schedule:

(1)10.30.XXX - Statewide System

<u>Of School Support</u>	<u>10,000,000</u>
<u>(2) 10.30.XXX - School Assist</u>	
<u>And Intervention Teams</u>	<u>1,600,000</u>
<u>(3) 10.30.XXX - SAIT Correct</u>	
<u>Actions</u>	<u>22,069,000</u>
<u>(4) 10.30.XXX - Program Imp -</u>	
<u>LEA's</u>	<u>16,180,000</u>

Provisions:

1. In administering the
accountability system required
by this item, the Department of
Education shall align the forms,
processes, and procedures
required of local educational
agencies in a manner that they
may be utilized for the purposes
of implementing the Public
Schools Accountability Act, as
established by Chapter 6.1
(commencing with Section 52050)
of Part 28 of the Education
Code, so that duplication of
effort is minimized at the local
level.

ATTACHMENT E.

**California Assessment System
2006-07**

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/documents/calassesssys07.pdf>

CALIFORNIA ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

2006–07

STAR Program											
CSTs	CAPA	CAT/6 Survey	STS	Aprenda 3	CELDT	CAHSEE	PFT	NAEP	EAP	CHSPE	GED
Standards-based	Standards-based	Norm-referenced	Standards-based	Norm-referenced	Standards-based	Standards-based	Criterion-referenced	Criterion-referenced	Standards-based	Criterion-referenced	Criterion-referenced
Grades 2–11	Grades 2–11	Grades 3 and 7	Grades 2–4	Grades 5–11	Grades K–12	Grades 10–12 Adult Students	Grades 5, 7, 9	Grades 4, 8, 12	Grade 11*	Ages 16 and up or complete grade 10*	Ages 18 and up*
English-Language Arts Mathematics Grades 4, 7 Written Composition Grades 8–11 History-Social Science Grades 5, 8–11 Science	English-Language Arts Mathematics (for students with significant cognitive disabilities)	Reading/Language Spelling Mathematics	Reading/Language Mathematics (for Spanish-speaking English learners who either receive instruction in their primary language or have been enrolled in a school in the United States less than 12 months)	Reading Spelling Language Mathematics (for Spanish-speaking English learners who either receive instruction in their primary language or have been enrolled in a school in the United States less than 12 months)	K–1 Listening Speaking Grades 2–12 Listening Speaking Reading Writing	English-Language Arts Mathematics Grade 10 All students Grades 11 and 12 Adult Students Students who have not previously passed	Aerobic Capacity Body Composition Abdominal Strength and Endurance Trunk Extensor Strength and Flexibility Upper Body Strength and Endurance Flexibility	Reading Mathematics Writing Civics Economics U.S. History	Augmentations to CSTs in: English-Language Arts Algebra II Summative High School Mathematics	Reading Writing Mathematics Science Social Science	Reading Writing Mathematics Science Social Science
Results Individual School District County State	Results Individual School District County State	Results Individual School District County State	Results Individual School District County State	Results Individual School District County State	Results Individual School District County State	Results Individual School District County State	Results Individual School District County State	Results National State	Results Individual	Results Individual School District	Results Individual

*Voluntary for students

Prepared by the California Department of Education
December 2006

Legend:

STAR = Standardized Testing and Reporting Program	CAHSEE = California High School Exit Examination
CSTs = California Standards Tests	EAP = Early Assessment Program
CAPA = California Alternate Performance Assessment	PFT = Physical Fitness Test
CAT/6 Survey = California Achievement Tests, Sixth Edition Survey	CHSPE = California High School Proficiency Exam
STS = Standards-based Tests in Spanish	GED = General Educational Development
Aprenda 3 = Aprenda, La prueba de logros en español, Tercera edición (Aprenda 3)	NAEP = National Assessment of Educational Progress
CELDT = California English Language Development Test	

ATTACHMENT F.

LAO Report

February 2007

Improving Alternative Education in California

Between 10 percent to 15 percent of high school students enroll in one of the state's four alternative programs each year. These programs serve many of the state's at-risk students. We recommend fixing the state and federal accountability programs so that schools and districts are held responsible for the success of students in alternative programs. We also recommend funding reforms that reinforce the district's responsibility for creating effective options for students.

Executive Summary

State law authorizes three types of alternative schools—continuation schools, community schools, and community day schools—to serve high school students who are “at risk” of dropping out of school. In addition, some districts use independent study to educate at-risk high school students. Between 10 percent to 15 percent of high school students enroll in one of these programs each year.

Despite the importance of alternative education, existing K-12 accountability programs do not permit an evaluation of whether participating students are making progress. In fact, the state's accountability system allows schools and districts to use referrals to alternative schools as a way to avoid responsibility for the progress of low-performing students. The way that the state finances alternative schools further blurs accountability and creates incentives that result in fewer services to these students.

By addressing these two issues, the Legislature can begin the process of improving alternative education in California. Improving state and federal accountability programs is a crucial first step. Schools and districts need to be held responsible for the success of students who are referred to local alternative programs. In addition, we also recommend the Legislature revise the state's alternative school accountability program so that it focuses on learning gains and graduating students from high school.

We also recommend creating a new funding mechanism for the support of alternative programs that would reinforce the district's responsibility for creating effective options for at-risk students. Our proposed block grant would give districts maximum flexibility to support district alternatives that best meet the needs of its students.

Alternative programs are designed, at least in part, to create a safety net for students who are unsuccessful in our regular comprehensive high schools. Currently, data are not adequate to answer the question of whether these programs serve this role. Our recommendations, therefore, would provide the data the Legislature needs to answer this question. More importantly, however, our recommendations would help ensure that all parties involved in the process—including school officials, teachers, parents, and students—would seek the answer to this question as well.